Sl. No.	State	2002-03 Apr.-Mar.	2003-04 Apr.-Mar.	2004-05 Apr.-Mar.
6.	Kerala	67.45	44.53	33.77
7.	Madhya Pradesh	5.83	34.85	69.25
8.	Maharashtra	2366.40	1355.31	3183.13
9.	Orissa	0.00	0.00	0.00
10.	Rajasthan	1.22	1.89	4.58
11.	Tamil Nadu	990.17	603.80	358.47
12.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.03
13.	West Bengal	177.96	84.50	467.37
14.	Chandigarh	843.89	76.71	13.49
15.	Delhi	3062.22	2123.46	3717.53
16.	Goa	139.09	160.59	100.66
17.	Other States not indicated	3445.25	3360.72	4201.34
	GRAND TOTAL	12870.67	10064.10	14652.73

Closure of rural banks in Kerala

220. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to outsource the normal banking activities in rural areas;

(b) whether Government show favour to close down rural branches on the ground of economic non-viability, if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of rural branches of banks which have been closed down in Kerala during the last financial year with the details thereof;

(d) whether any proposal is pending for the amalgamation of banks and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether Government propose to nationalize any scheduled banks and if not whether Government adopted and policy decision desisting nationalization?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that with the objective of ensuring greater financial inclusion and increasing outreach of the banking sector, it has been decided in public interest to allow all Scheduled Commercial Banks including Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) to use the services of Non-Governmental Organisations, Self Help Groups, Micro Finance institutions and other Civil Society Organisations as intermediaries in providing financial and banking services through the use of Business Facilitator and Correspondent models as indicated in RBI's Circular dated January 25, 2006.

(b) RBI generally encourages banks to open branches in rural areas. Further, RRBs are not allowed to close down any rural branch. However, merger of two loss making branches of RRBs, operating in close proximity to each other (*i.e.* within a distance of about 5 Km.), is considered by RBI on merits of each case.

(c) and (d) No rural branch of any Scheduled Commercial Bank has been closed/merged/converted in Kerala during the financial year 2004-05. Further, no proposal is pending for amalgamation of RRBs in Kerala.

(e) No, Sir.

Single window facility for payment of tax

221. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have launched Large Taxpayers Units (LTU) and invited the 582 top corporates to avail themselves of the single window facility to pay their taxes while promising to set up a National Tax Tribunal in 2006 to reduce disputes and improve collections;

(b) if so, the response of each company in this regard;

(c) the cities identified to set up LTUs so far;

(d) whether Government are also in the process of hiring consultants for restructuring of IT Department; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Government has announced setting